

Message Text

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41

ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 /016 W

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O R 241414Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9110

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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STATE FOR CU/EE, EUR/SOV; USIA FOR IEU; LENINGRAD FOR P&C

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJ: BILLINGTON VISIT TO USSR

REF: (A) MOSCOW 14948 (B) STATE 236634

1. EMBASSY CONTINUED TO PUSH BILLINGTON VISA QUESTION ON TWO FRONTS WITH MFA SEPTEMBER 24.

2. ACTING POLITICAL COUNSELOR TELEPHONED USA DIVISION DEPUTY CHIEF FEDOSEYEV AT 0915 MOSCOW TIME TO ASK FOR ANSWER ON VISA REQUEST. FEDOSEYEV INDICATED HE EXPECTED DECISION IN COURSE OF DAY ON MATTER.

3. EMBOFF RAISED MATTER AGAIN WITH FEDOSEYEV DURING CALL AT MFA AT 1500. FEDOSEYEV AGAIN INDICATED HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT MATTER WOULD BE RESOLVED POSITIVELY, ADDING THAT HE PERSONALLY WOULD FOLLOW MATTER UNTIL IT IS RESOLVED. HE INDICATED HE WOULD BE AVAILABLE IN OFFICE ON SATURDAY IF NEEDED.

4. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, CONSULAR COUNSELOR CONTACTED STEPANOV OF MFA CONSULAR DIVISION IN REGARD TO VISA. STEPANOV INFORMED COUNSELOR THAT NO DECISION WOULD BE REACHED UNTIL AFTER WEEKEND. COUNSELOR BROUGHT UP 3-5 DAY RULE AND INDICATED EMBASSY FELT IT APPLIED IN THIS CASE.

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STEPANOV'S RESPONSE WAS THAT IN VIEW OF SHORNESS

OF TIME BEFORE WEEKEND, NO DECISION COULD NOW BE REACHED.

5. AT 1615, ACTING POLITICAL COUNSELOR AGAIN CONTACTED FEDOSEYEV AND TOLD HIM IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR US SIDE TO UNDERSTAND THE DELAY IN ISSUING THIS VISA WHICH THE EMBASSY FELT CLEARLY FELL INTO 3-5 DAY CATEGORY. FEDOSEYEV CONFIRMED THAT HE WAS AWARE OF 3-5 DAY RULE. HE AGAIN MENTIONED THAT HE WOULD BE AVAILABLE IN OFFICE ON 25 SEPTEMBER AND WOULD FOLLOW MATTER UNTIL IT IS RESOLVED. ACTING P&C COUNSELOR REMINDED FEDOSEYEV THAT BILLINGTON, PLANNED TO DEPART US ON 25TH AND THAT VISA HAD BEEN APPLIED FOR IN EARLY AUGUST. FEDOSEYEV INDICATED HE WAS AWARE OF BOTH OF THESE FACTS BUT WAS UNABLE TO DO ANYTHING MORE AT THIS TIME.

6. REQUEST DEPT. ADVISE BY IMMEDIATE OF ANY CHANGE AT WASHINGTON END IN STATUS OF VISA REQUEST.
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